

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 /071 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7850

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

USMISSION NATO

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS ANKARA 1062

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY, GR

SUBJ: CONTINUED TURKISH MEDIA REACTION TO AID CUTOFF

REF: ANKARA 1026

1. TURKISH MEDIA REACTION TO THE CUT-OFF OF U.S. MILITARY AID GREW IN INTENSITY THURSDAY (FEB.6) FROM WEDNESDAY'S ALREADY EXTREMELY HIGH LEVEL. FRONT PAGES OF MOST NEWSPAPERS CARRIED SEVERAL STORIES ON VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTS. IN A PROGRAM OF UNUSUAL LENGTH, WEDNESDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENING TELEVISION NEWS BROADCAST DEVOTED ALMOST 40 MINUTES TO THE AID CUT-OFF.

2. PRESS AND BROADCAST REPORTS FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON PRESIDENT KORUTURK'S MEETING WITH PARTY LEADERS WEDNESDAY, UNCLASSIFIED

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STATEMENTS BY THOSE LEADERS AFTER THE MEETING, STATE-

MENTS BY OTHER TURKISH OFFICIALS AND POLITICIANS, AND REPORTS THAT A NOTE HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO U.S. OFFICIALS IN ANKARA AND WASHINGTON. (SEE SEPTELS.) TELEVISION REPORTS AND SEVERAL PAPERS ALSO NOTED THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD ASKED CONGRESS TO LIFT THE BAN ON AID TO TURKEY. BUT ONLY MAJOR ISTANBUL DAILY: MILLIYET GAVE THIS REPORT TOP FRONT-PAGE PLAY. HOWEVER, THE LATE EVENING TELEVISION NEWS BROADCAST CARRIED AMBASSADOR MACOMBER READING PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT TO NEWSMEN AS HE LEFT FOREIGN MINISTER MELIH ESENBEL'S OFFICE WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

3. IN OTHER COVERAGE, A FRONT PAGE REPORT IN HURRIYET, TURKEY'S LARGEST DAILY, ASSERTED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD TELEPHONED ANKARA SEEKING A SECRET MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ESENBEL.

4. ACCORDING TO REPORTS IN SEVERAL PAPERS, INCLUDING THE PRO-REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY DAILY, BARIS, THE NOTE DELIVERED WEDNESDAY TO U.S. OFFICIALS CALLED INTO QUESTION THE USEFULNESS OF TURKISH-AMERICAN MUTUAL DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS IN LIGHT OF THE AID CUT-OFF.

5. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENTS, A FEW PAPERS, INCLUDING SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN AND ALSO MILLIYET, CARRIED REPORTS FROM NICOSIA THAT TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER RAUF DENKTASH HAD SUGGESTED TO ANKARA THE DECLARATION OF AN AUTONOMOUS TURKISH REPUBLIC ON CYPRUS. ONLY MILLIYET GAVE THE STORY FRONT PAGE PLAY AND IT WAS NOT CARRIED ON TELEVISION OR RADIO.

6. EDITORIAL COMMENT AS WELL AS COVERAGE OF THE CUT-OFF WAS INTENSE IN THURSDAY EDITIONS. COMMENTATORS IN BOTH GUNAYDIN AND HURRIYET STRESSED THE THEME THAT U.S. BASES AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN TURKEY WOULD BE PRIME TARGETS IN THE EVENT OF WAR AND SUGGESTED THAT TURKEY WOULD BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT THEM. WRITERS IN LEFT-LIBERAL CUMHURİYET ASSERTED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF GREEK INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL AND THAT THE MAIN THREAT TO TURKEY HAS COME NOT FROM THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SOVIET UNION, BUT FROM GREECE. IN OTHER COMMENT, YASAR AYSEV, EDITOR OF BARIS, ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF A BREACH OF SOLEMN AGREEMENTS AND ASKED WHY TURKEY SHOULD NOT SIGN A NON-AGGRESSION TREATY WITH THE SOVIET UNION. NORMALLY PRO-AMERICAN COLUMNIST SAMI KOHEN IN MILLIYET DECLARED THAT EVEN THOUGH AID WERE RESTORED, IT IS TOO LATE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO RECOUP ITS FORMER POSITION IN TURKEY.

7. IN OTHER MEDIA REACTION TO THE CUT-OFF, TURKISH STATE TELEVISION (TRT) CANCELLED A PLANNED SHOWING OF A FILM BIOGRAPHY OF GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED AS PART OF A SERIES ON WORLD WAR II COMMANDERS. ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN CUMHURIYET, THE PROGRAM WAS CANCELLED IN DEFERENCE TO TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION, TRT OFFICIALS SAID.  
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